

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1 and 21 are currently amended, and claim 4 has been canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-22 are pending, and claim 4 has been canceled.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Horiuchi (US 6,367,833 B1). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the stress-inducing component includes a motion assisting unit that applies a motion assisting force to the component using a motor. A stress reducing unit provides a signal to operate the motor for reducing an amount of stress applied to the component from the motor when an operating sensing unit senses that the component should be operated. A control unit provides a signal for operating the component a predetermined event after the stress reducing unit provides the signal so that stress applied to the component from the motor is reduced at the time the component is operated.

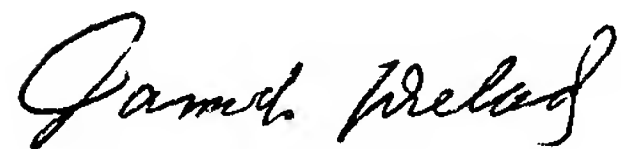
Horiuchi discloses an automatic shifting control device for a bicycle wherein the user may set gear ranges. Also, the system may automatically change the shift speed or available gears based on various operating conditions. Horiuchi's system does not includes a motion assisting unit that applies a motion assisting force to a component using a motor, wherein a stress reducing unit provides a signal to operate the motor for reducing an amount of stress applied to the component from the motor when an operating sensing unit senses that the component should be operated. Accordingly, Horiuchi neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

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PATENT

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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